



Ø BEAT

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J U N E 1 9 7 8

MEETING NOTICE: The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will meet this month on June 14 at 7:30 pm at the Security Savings and Loan Association Building, East Platte at Union. Anyone interested in amateur radio is invited to attend. Bill Croghan WBØKSW will be attempting to tell us all about County Hunting--really a fascinating activity; read the article below and come to the meeting to hear all about it.

COME TO FIELD DAY! It will be at a nice high spot off Rampart Range Road. Directions and map inside if I don't forget.

HOW TO BE DX RIGHT HERE IN THE USA Have you ever wondered what it's like to be on the receiving end of one of those DX pileups we hear on the HF bands so often? Would you like to have Sweden and Spain competing in a pileup for your attention? Ever felt the desire to take a DX-pedition? All these things are possible without ever leaving the good old USA, and during your normal summer vacations and travels. How? Easy. Just get into County Hunting. Over a thousand US stations and hams representing at least a dozen foreign countries are actively seeking the difficult-to-get USA-CA Award. That's the County Award and if you thought worked-all-states was hard at 50 contacts, or dxcc was hard at 100 contacts, try the USA-CA Award at 3075 contacts.

There are several categories of sub-awards within the USA-CA program, at the 500, 1000, 2000, and 3000 levels, and also awards for all-mobile, all mobile-to-mobile, all-14Mhz, all-7, all-3.9, etc. There is a large group of awards for giving out counties also, at the 100, 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, and 3075 levels. No one has ever given out all the counties, so that one would be unique. Special awards for working YLs and holders or the Worked all Counties Awards are available also.

The basic worked-all-counties award is administered by CQ Magazine and the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC). Registration or membership is not required, although for MARAC-only awards, you should be a member. MARAC membership costs only \$4 a year and includes a subscription to the MARAC newsletter which gives excellent information on people planning trips and a forum to list counties needed to finish particular states or the entire award. Any contact you have ever made counts in you have a QSL card to prove it. Two excellent QSL bureaus exist specifically for the county hunters to exchange cards at a reduced rate. (Continues on next page.)

P P R A A D I R E C T O R S

| | | |
|--------------|---|----------|
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| <u>Editor:</u> | <u>Business Manager:</u> |
| Dave Allen WBØTAQ | Ed Pompea KØZPG |
| 821 N. Cascade | 2111 Trent Ave. |
| Co Spgs, CO 80903 | Co Spgs, CO 80909 |
| 471-0642 | 635 7554 |



The PPRAA meets at 7:30pm on the Second Wednesday of each month in the Security Savings and Loan Building, East Platte at Union Blvd.

HOW TO BE DX (Con'd) The special mobile reply card is designed for the working station to send to the worked station for postpaid return, so that the cost is not born by the mobile. You will receive a card all filled out, needing just your signature, and probably a first-contact card from the station who worked you, which you can use for credit for his county.

If you'd like to get into this exciting and busy activity, just tune approximately 14.336MHz during the day, or 3.943MHz at night for the nets (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Anyone is welcome anytime to work any of the stations running. Mobiles are given preference, since they are the only way of working many counties and often have schedules to keep and can not remain long in their counties. Fixed or portables in the rarer counties are run when time permits. If you want a mobile to QSL, send SASE or use the bureaus that guarantee postage return, and send either a mobile reply card or send the normal QSL card info, with time, date, county, state, and band worked, plus indication if he was mobile and if CW or SSB to the mobile. It is not unusual for a mobile to run several hundred county hunters a day, so he probably will not QSL without the SASE or MRC. Log books of the county's and lists are available from numerous sources. A CW county hunter net meets twice weekly.

If you think you'd like to try being a rare county, here are some tips. Go mobile. A fixed station will be rare only the first time he's run and may not be that rare if there are many hams in the county (like El Paso). Listen to the net for procedures, and don't be afraid to check in. Stop on county lines; they count for both counties and get preferential treatment. Don't worry about running barefoot; the county hunters are used to mobile signals and could pull a mouse squeak out of a tornado, 5-9. Get off the interstates. I worked 30 people from an interstate highway in Texas, then drove ten miles south on a county road to another county and worked 120. No ham had been in that county in years.

(Continued on next page.)

HOW TO BE DX (Con'd again) Don't be insulted if you get put off or put low on a list. Mobiles and county lines take precedence, last counties for those listed in the MARAC newsletter take precedence, and the experienced net controls might list a very rare county ahead of you. You will get your turn, and if you should run out of the county, then run your next county. At home, don't be afraid to take net control (after you've listened awhile). Don't be afraid to act as relay for net controls. All mobiles give net control and relay stations preference over all other fixed stations in giving out the rare ones. The net is the Independent County Hunter Net, so no formal membership is required.

Be prepared for requests to "Go to Forty" occasionally as some stations can't work you on the regular net. Net control will give you a frequency. Ten and 15 meter county hunting is uncommon but it all counts. Remember any QSL card you have ever received that you can verify the county, counts toward USA-CA. Good luck and good hunting.

Bill Croghan WBØKSW

Addresses:

MARAC info and membership--

Walt Allen WØDG
2907 W. 98th St.
Lakewood, Kansas 66206
(Include 40¢ SASE)

County Lists and QSL Bureau

Mobile QSL Bureau

W6CCM, Dave

PO Box 146

Lakeside, Calif 92040

[For more info, call Bill anytime at 632-0624, but by all means, come to the meeting and hear Bill's program on county hunting. He's got a lot to tell about it.]

MEETING MINUTES: WØWYZ Ray Uberecken gaveled the May meeting of the PPRAA to order at 7:35 pm at Security Savings and Loan on Platte and Union.

During membership introductions each indicated only minimal or no damage to antennas during the recent May snowstorms. That is, except WØWYZ Ray, who lost both his dish and the bird eggs that were in it. WBØPNX Dick Schlueter moved the approval of the April minutes as printed in Zero Beat. Seconded by WDØBTD Dan Henry. Motion passed. WBØPNX Dick reported a balance in the checking account of \$933.17. There are no known outstanding bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Field Day--KØTER Mike Stansberry indicated that the Black Forest FD sites were not available this year and that the committee was considering several other sites. FD is 24-25 June. Dave Vierling WDØDLY (now NØDV) is trying to organize the novices for FD. Walk for Mankind--KØTER made final assignments and gave essential information to those participating. Date is 13 May and the length of the walk is 30 Km. US Olympic Sports Festival--WBØPAJ Frank Freiler has been working with Olympic officials in arranging the amateur portion of the communications systems. The Festival director, Mr. Baron Pittinger, held a meeting 6 May with the PPRAA board. NØES represented the Pueblo Club. Olympic officials are asking the hams to provide the administrative communications, which will be the heart of the communications systems. The festival dates are 27-30 July. (Con'd next page)

A.E.S. Communications

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COME IN FOR A CUP OF COFFEE & CHAT!

DAVE WDØCDU * TOM WDØEMN * JERA WDØHHL

JUNE 1978

MINUTES Con'd: Communications are needed for events at Olympic Center, AF Academy, Colorado College, various high schools, Pueblo, and Lake at Woodmoor. The project was discussed at length by WBØPAJ, WØWYZ, WBØTIC, and KØROL. WBØTIC and KØROL primarily discussed the magnitude, international implications, and importance of the project. If it goes well the Pikes Peak and Pueblo clubs could become internationally known and respected. A message center for the athletes, utilizing NTS, will also be set up at the Olympic Center under the direction of KØTER. WBØPAJ Frank Freiler is the project coordinator and liaison. WØWYZ Ray Uberecken, WBØMHP Doug Moloney, KØTER Mike Stansberry, and KØROL Oak Stockton will comprise the technical committee for the project. The membership present (about 80 people) gave a deeply appreciated unanimous vote of support. More information to follow as the details develop. Activities--WBØYKH Dennis Smith listed the events for May per QST magazine. CCARC--WØRNT Chuck Myers discussed the Hamfest to be held July 7,8,9 in Greeley, Colorado. The July CCARC meeting is to be in Glenwood Springs. EC--WBØTIB Bud Widmar announced the appointment of four assistant ECs: WBØPAJ Frank Freiler, WØRNT Chuck Myers, WBØKSW Bill Croghan, and WBØYJP Bill Hodgkins. He indicated the Red Cross CPR classes given for club members by CSFD had been completed. He also requested hams to provide communication for the ten-mile run sponsored by the Gazette Telegraph on June 19. PR--WDØBTD Dan Henry displayed and discussed the eight new club signs recently assembled for display where the club is providing public service communications. There was no new or unfinished business.

A two-meter antenna gain measuring contest is planned for some Saturday in June. Hammy was presented as "Turkey of the Month" for excessive emission of Recumbent Nocturnal Harmonics and Parasitics while on a recent trip to the Dayton Hamvention. OOs were WBØDUL and WØRNT. [I think that means he snored so loud nobody else could sleep.]

A very interesting program on "What Can Be Done in Home-brew" was presented by Bob Shriner KØUZO from Pueblo. [Say, secty, did he change his call from WAØUZO?] Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 [much to the consternation of the security guard. Let's watch that, so we don't offend our hosts. We otta be gone by 10.].

Gordon Denno WBØTIC, Secretary
[with additions by taq[i]]

If it's CW, it's communications.

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KEEP THOSE CARDS & LETTERS COMING:

9 May 78, Dear OM: It was with interest I read in the minutes (May issue) of the PPRAA's plan to buy a trailer. It brought back memories of the Pikes Peak ARA (founded 1932). That club had a very large trailer, complete with its club stn, W9OKY, and emergency power supply. When WW 2 started, about 90% of the membership went into war service, either military or civil service; so the club sold its trailer, club stn, and test equipment. I was Sec'y-Treas. of the PPRAA from '32 to '42.

My present plans are to be in Colo Springs sometime during June, but the exact date cannot be determined as yet.

Vy 73,

Carl C. Drumeller, W5JJ
ex-W9EHC (1932-42)

[Gee, what a past we must have. It's really super to get cards like this one. Hope Carl can come to the meeting or look some of us up when he's here. TAQ]

WALK: Over thirty Colorado Springs area hams recently provided communications for the "Project Concern" Walk for Mankind on May 13. Over 5000 men, women and children walked 30 kilometers to raise money for the project. Hams were stationed at 17 checkpoints along the route, approximately every mile, to handle administrative and emergency communications. All communications were handled on 2 meter FM simplex with a second 2 meter simplex channel to link the walk headquarters with the secondary walk command post at the halfway point. Local repeaters were used to handle over 80 phone patches for the walkers and officials. The Telestar machine, at 147.87 in/147.27 out handled the bulk of the auto patch traffic. In addition to the fixed/portable stations, there were a number of rovers who were able to fill in where help was needed, including club president Ray Uberecken WØWYZ who was motorcycle mobile, and past president Mike Stansberry KØTER who was shoe leather mobile. Mike walked and jogged the entire route, being sponsored by the club and numerous individuals.

Things went well during the walk, with no really serious injuries and no great snafu's. Some of us learned valuable lessons in the need to separate, both by distance and frequency, two FM 2 meter transmitters, so that they did not desense each other. A liberal use of the club signs, made by Doug Moloney and the PR committee helped focus attention on the amateur radio communications. Hand-outs were available at most checkpoints to answer questions on "What is amateur radio?" Ages of the amateurs participating ranged from grade school to senior citizens, and class of license from novice to extra. A good time was had by all.

All club members are reminded that we are preparing to provide administrative communications for the Olympic Committee in June. [July??]

Bill Croghan WBØKSW

WHEW. It may be taking more than the usual one sitting to read this Zero Beat. There's a lot going on, and more in the works. So give it some time. I've been asked to print the feedback and comments from the WALK, but most of it just concerns those who will be doing next year's walk. Here are just the technical type comments, which will help us all be better prepared for simplex activities, especially the Olympic activities coming up. We all need to know more about using simplex (eg, the limitations of fowl antennas) and how to participate in a directed net.

- A. 450 link between the two parks to eliminate desense
- B. NCS was weak at ckpt 13 (Circle and Constitution)
- C. Better antenna at ckpts equipped with HTs
- D. Fewer rovers.
- E. Separate link antenna or rig from net antenna or rig to eliminate desense.
- F. Six-meter AM for link to eliminate desense.
- G. Use repeaters instead of simplex to eliminate doubling.
- H. Some checkpoints lacked adequate power.
- I. Provide more people for relief, eg, meals, gas for mobiles using engines to recharge batteries.
- J. Use roundtable checks of all ckpts at scheduled intervals to establish needs of non-emergency items.
- K. Determine priorities and inform all stations of them.
- L. Establish comm procedures and print and distribute them to all ckpts so that relief crews are familiar with procedures.
- M. Educate operators and NCSs in net procedures, pro-signs, etc. for clarity, efficiency.

AMATEURS AT THE OLYMPICS: July 26 through 30 are special dates to remember this summer. The US Olympic Committee is holding a Sports Festival in the Pikes Peak region, and amateur radio operators have been asked to provide administrative communication stations at all athletic event locations, from Monument to Pueblo.

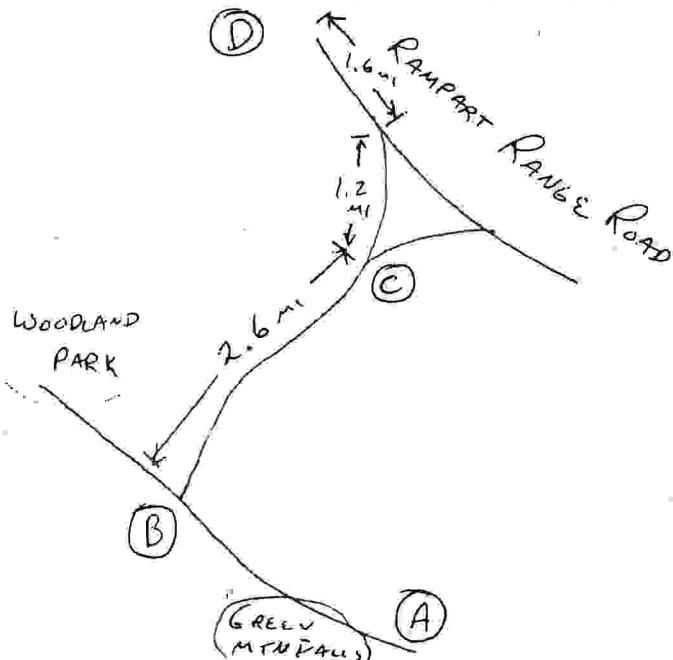
In a meeting on May 6 at the Olympic Training Center, Frank Freiler WBØPAJ, Amateur Coordinator; Bilko Morgan WØES, Pueblo Ham Club President; Bud Widmar WBØTIB, El Paso/Teller Counties Emergency Coordinator, and others presented the amateur radio capabilities to Baron Pittenger, Festival Chairman.

Early estimates reveal that 35 to 50 amateurs will be needed throughout the five-day event. Participating hams will be provided with special passes and credentials. Some of the proposed responsibilities will be communications on buses used to transport athletes between Colorado Springs and Pueblo, and to provide communications between each athletic event chairman and the Festival chairman at the Olympic Training Center.

Amateurs who wish to participate should contact Frank WBØPAJ, Bilko WØES, or Bud WBØTIB soon so that planning can be completed. Since this is the largest communications event in this area (blizzard excluded) don't hesitate to get involved.

Doug Moloney, WBØMHP

FIELD DAY. Ah. What a day (week-end, actually). A time for people who like to take drives in the country, spent days in the country, spend nights in the country/mountains, eat out in the country, spend wild times with other folks in the country, operate ham gear in the country, watch people operating ham gear in the country, or just do a bit of contesting in the country. It's a chance to be AWAY and be with a bunch of neat folks at the same time. So drive up, drop in, check it out. Here's where & how. (After all, the entire Green Mountain Falls Radio Club will be there!)





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- A. Leave C Sp on US 24 West toward Woodland Park
- B. Turn right at the sign that says "Teller County Sheriff Substation"
- C. Go left at the fork where the sign says "Rampart Range Road to Denver"
- D. You're there. But we won't be until June 24, 25. See ya.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT 146.52 FM NET: Did you know the PPRAA 146.52 Net is a half a year old and still going strong?!? Some nights stronger than others!!!

This is just a reminder that the net is open to ANY amateur (properly licensed for 2 meters), not just PPRAA members.

Since summertime brings more activities for hams, check in on Wednesday nights at 1900L, 7 pm, or 0100Z (your choice) for the latest in news and views. The net meets each week except club meeting night.

Don't be blue: see you on 52!

-30-

Doug Moloney WBØMHP

TVI ANYONE? Several months have passed and the TVI committee is starting to feel like the Maytag repairman. Good news!

It has been quiet lately, but don't forget we do have a TVI committee to help amateurs with those sticky-wicket type problems. If you have any problems (TVI-BCI-HiFiI) get in touch with Ray WØWYZ, Doug WBØMHP, or Dave WBØSDW.

-30-

Doug Moloney WBØMHP

STOLEN: Heathkit HW-202, 2m xcvr, ser. unknown, from Russ Wargin WBØWMI, 9231 Hazel Ct., Westminster. Has 147.75/15, .855/.255, 146.34/94, and 52/52. Social sec number scribed on case, Micoder low tones not operating.

STOLEN: Wilson HT, type unknown, freq unknown, from Robert A. Smith WAØTAM, Denver.

STOLEN: Complete RTTY Set, consisting of keyboard, transmitter, receiver, and AC power supply, 5dB ASP magnet mount ant. from Aurora ham.

ANY INFO, please contact Charles E. Myers WØRNT, 1120 Yosemite Dr., Colo Springs 80910, 303-632-0848

THAT'S IT, FOLKS. Time for me to scram.

OOPS, NOT QUITE: ARRL Bulletin Nr. 710 reports that effective June 16, if you pass a code test at an FCC office, you will get credit for it even if you flunk the associated written test. That credit will be good for a year and you'll just have to try the written again. The credit is good only at the same FCC office you pass the code test at, and doesn't apply to volunteer (eg, novice) tests.

Tnx, Dennis Smith WBØYKH, OBS



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JUNE 1978

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